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APPLICANT: GWEN, Patrick

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EXAMINER: Willatt, S.L.

TITLE: FLOSSER APPARATUS WITH DETACHABLE AND POSITIONABLE FLOSS ELEMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT "A"

Director of the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Supplemental Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 1 - 18 and substitute Claims 19 - 35 therefor as follows:

Claims 1 - 18 (canceled).

19. (new) A flosser apparatus comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end, said handle having a first slot formed into a surface thereof adjacent said first end, said handle having a second slot formed into said surface adjacent said first end, said first slot extending in transverse relationship to said second slot;

a locking member affixed to said handle; and

a flosser element removably received in one of said first and second slots, said locking member retaining said flosser element in the slot, said locking member comprising a body slidably affixed to said handle, said body slidable between a first position away from said second slot and a second position adjacent said second slot.

20. (new) The apparatus of Claim 19, said first slot extending longitudinally along said handle, and second slot extending transversely to said handle.

21. (new) The apparatus of Claim 19, said first slot having a curved portion at a side thereof opposite said first end, said first slot opening at said first end.

22. (new) The apparatus of Claim 19, said handle having a first side and a second side, said second slot having ends opening respectively at said first side and said second side.

23. (new) The apparatus of Claim 19, said body having a split extending entirely longitudinally therealong on one side of said body.

24. (new) The apparatus of Claim 23, said body having a first tongue extending outwardly therefrom on said one side of said body and on one side of said split, said body having a second tongue extending outwardly therefrom on said one side of said body and on an opposite side of said split.

25. (new) The apparatus of Claim 24, said first and second tongues being engaged with said flosser element when in said second portion, said first and second tongues being spaced from said flosser element when in said first position.

26. (new) The apparatus of Claim 19, said flosser element comprising:

a generally U-shaped body having a first arm and a second arm and a strut extending therebetween; and

a length of floss fixedly secured to said first arm and to said second arm and extending across said U-shaped body.

27. (new) A flosser apparatus comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end, said handle having a first slot formed into a surface thereof adjacent said first end, said handle having a second slot formed into said surface adjacent said first end, said first slot extending in transverse relationship to said second slot;

a locking member affixed to said handle; and
a flosser element removably received in one of said first and second slots, said locking member retaining said flosser element in the slot, said flosser element comprising:

a generally U-shaped body having a first arm and a second arm and a strut extending therebetween; and

a length of floss fixedly secured to said first arm and to said second arm and extending across said U-shaped body, said flosser element having a channel formed in said strut between said first and second arms.

28. (new) The apparatus of Claim 27, said flosser element having finger members extending respectively outwardly from opposite sides of said strut and in transverse relation to said strut.

29. (new) The apparatus of Claim 28, said flosser element being positionable in a first position in said first and second slots of and handle such that said strut is received in said first slot and said finger members are received in said second slot, said flosser element being positionable in a second slot such that said strut is received in said second slot and said finger members are received in said first slot.

30. (new) The apparatus of Claim 27, said first arm having a curved outer surface extending to one end of said strut, said second arm having a curved outer surface extending to an opposite end of said strut.

31. (new) A flosser apparatus comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end, said handle having a first slot formed into a surface thereof adjacent said first end;

a locking member slidably affixed to said handle, said locking member having a tongue extending outwardly therefrom; and

a flosser element removably received in said slot, said flosser element comprising:

a generally U-shaped body having a first arm and a second arm and a strut extending therebetween; and

a length of floss fixedly secured to said first arm and said second arm and extending across said U-shaped body, said locking member slideable between a first position in which said tongue is away from said strut and a second position in which said tongue overlies said strut.

32. (new) The apparatus of Claim 31, said strut having a channel formed therein, said tongue bearing against a side wall of said channel when in said second position so as to urge one of said first and second arms away from the other of said first and second arms.

33. (new) The apparatus of Claim 31, said handle having another slot extending transverse to said slot, said strut having a finger member extending outwardly transversely thereto, said finger member received in said another slot.

34. (new) The apparatus of Claim 31, said tongue of said locking member comprising a first tongue and a second tongue extending outwardly from a side of said locking member, said side of said locking member having a split formed therein and extending longitudinally therealong, said first tongue being on one side of said split, said second tongue being on an opposite side of said split.

35. (new) A flosser apparatus comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end, said handle having a slot formed into a surface thereof and extending longitudinally therealong;

a locking member slidably affixed to said handle, said locking member having a tongue extending outwardly therefrom; and

a flosser element removably received in said slot, said flosser element comprising:

a generally U-shaped body having a first arm and a second arm and a strut extending therebetween; and

a length of floss fixedly secured to said first arm and said second arm and extending across said U-shaped body, said strut having a finger member extending outwardly of one side of said strut and in transverse relationship to said strut, said locking member slideable between a first position in which said tongue is away from said finger member and a second position in which said tongue overlies said finger member.